



Mishawaka Communicator



Working together to build the "Best Hometown in America" by delivering exceptional services, promoting safe and clean neighborhoods, elevating the quality of life, and inspiring pride in our community.

Mishawaka, Indiana

Jeff Rea, Mayor

May 2009

A Letter from Mayor Jeff Rea

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

For 175 years, the City of Mishawaka has prided itself on our clean and safe neighborhoods. Our neighborhoods are maintained thanks to the dedication and commitment of caring residents. The City is proud to provide exceptional services such as: leaf pick up, snow removal, street sweeping and in necessary cases, code enforcement. These services are provided in order to keep our neighborhoods looking their best. This month's Communicator is dedicated to our Department of Code Enforcement and what they do in our neighborhoods.

One of the most difficult tasks we face in City government is how to teach residents to

be good neighbors. Unfortunately, we get calls each and every day regarding someone not being a good neighbor. Our Department of Code Enforcement works within our neighborhoods on these very issues.

Here are three of the most common summertime complaints that we hear from neighbors: **Tall grass** - City Ordinance states that grass cannot be taller than 9" inches in height. **Broken window panes** - replace any broken windows in your home. **Scraping and painting** - keep older homes looking nice by not letting the paint start to peel or flake. These are just three examples of things that have a detrimental effect not only on the appearance of the house, but the entire neighborhood. If

one house on the block looks bad it effects everyone. That is why being a good neighbor is important and why the City of Mishawaka is committed to working with neighbors to solve neighborhood issues. Our Department of Code Enforcement is available to help in any way, if you have questions please call 258-1612.

On the second page of the Communicator there are easy to read diagrams with more examples of ways that you can keep your own neighborhood and Mishawaka looking good. Together, we will work to make sure that your neighborhood remains a place where you want to live and raise your families.

Code Enforcement Neighborhood Initiatives

In an effort to further elevate the quality of life in Mishawaka's neighborhoods, the Department of Code Enforcement has developed a yearly initiative to work together as a team to make a noticeable impact on the overall appearance of one neighborhood. In 2008 the Milburn Boulevard area was chosen because it is largely residential, densely populated and its boundaries are clearly defined.

In this Milburn area initiative, code officers initiated 666 public nuisance type cases

with 637 being closed resulting in a 96% completion rate. Code Officers opened a total of 97 cases on substandard structures and closed 65 of them which reflect a 67% completion rate. More of these substandard cases will be closed now that spring has arrived and property owners once again can work on their projects.

Code Enforcement experienced such tremendous results in previous yearly neighborhood projects in the Milburn area, Lincoln Park,

and the near southwest side of Mishawaka, that they are planning a 2009 neighborhood project in the area surrounding Borley Park. Code officers are looking forward to working with these area residents to help improve their neighborhood.

Code has already begun to identify structures that need improving in the Borley Park area and will continue to address other code cases such as abandoned vehicles, tall grass and trash, to name a few, throughout 2009.

This Month:

Keeping Mishawaka's neighborhoods up to code

Next Month:

Water Quality Report

All past issues of the Communicator are available at www.mishawakacity.com



United States
Census 2010

- April 1, 2010 -

"It's In Our Hands"

St. Joseph County, Indiana

Community Calendar:

May:

2nd: The Pitch, Hit and Run competition for ages 7-14 will be held at Rose Park start at 8:00 a.m.

4th - 8th: Tot Soccer Camp will be held at Twin Branch everyday at 5:15 p.m.

23rd: Memorial Day Bike Decorating Contest held at Battell Park at 10:00a.m.

25th: Memorial Day, the Parade starts at 9:30 a.m.

June:

5th: Eberhart "Music on the Deck" Series 8:30-9:00 p.m. featuring the Billy Nicks Trio

8th: Michiana Concert Band Battell Center Concert Series 7:00-8:00 p.m.

See the complete city calendar on our website: www.mishawakacity.com

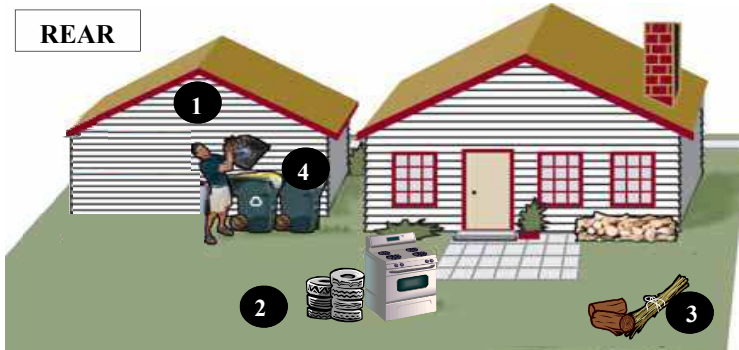
UP TO CODE...

Keep Mishawaka Looking Good!



Residents play an important part in maintaining our city's quality and appearance. The City has standards describing how property owners must maintain their buildings and grounds; it also relies on concerned residents to maintain their property and notify the City if a neighborhood property is becoming a problem. Here are some city codes regulating your house, neighborhood and pets. Report a nuisance or ordinance violation by calling Code Enforcement at 574-258-1612.

REAR



STORAGE:

1. Materials, machinery, equipment, construction and demolition remains must be stored in a building.

REFUSE, LITTER AND BRUSH:

2. Boxes, appliances, household items and tires should not be stored outside. You may place up to two large items out every week where you normally put your trash. Air conditioners or refrigerators are required to display a tag from a certified HVAC shop that Freon has been properly removed prior to placing out for trash pickup. Tires can be taken (off the rims) to the 5th St. Recycling Center, 1105 E. 5th St., Tuesday thru Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. (charges may apply) for more information contact the Street Department at (258-1660).

3. Cut brush or small limbs can be bundled or bound in 4 foot sections for trash pick up at the curb or can be taken by the homeowner to the 5th St. Recycling Center, 1105 E. 5th St., Tuesday thru Saturday, 8:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m. For more information contact the Street Department at 258-1660.

4. Trash, garbage or recycling containers may only be placed out for pickup **24 hours** immediately before and after trash collection.

**For more information, visit us on the web at
www.mishawakacity.com**



PETS

5. All dogs and cats must be licensed annually with the City and display their tags at all times. Rabies vaccination certificates for dogs and cats are required.

6. Animal feces on private property must be removed by the pet owner including removal while walking your animal on public sidewalks and in public parks.

7. Dogs must be kept on a leash when walking.

8. Frequent, continuous barking is prohibited. During Code hours, please call 258-1612. After hours, please call Mishawaka Police Department at 258-1678 and file a police report.



PARKING OF VEHICLES:

9. Abandoned Vehicles. All vehicles, including trailers, must be properly plated and operable or stored in a fully enclosed weatherproof structure.

10. Vehicles must be parked in the garage, on the driveway or on areas with an approved parking surface such as concrete or asphalt. No new parking areas can be gravel or rock. No vehicles of any kind can be parked in the front yard of a property. RV or boats may be stored in the back or side yard behind the front set-back of the house. For more on RVs, visit the City's Web site, keywords: Recreational vehicle.

11. Commercial vehicles shall be prohibited in all residential districts with the exception of trucks making deliveries.